

Immortality

1 Corinthians 15 – 16

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The Problem:

Some of the Corinthian believers were saying, "There will be no resurrection of the dead."

Paul's Response:

Christ died for our sins, he was buried, and he was raised on the third day, just as the scriptures said. He was seen by Peter, by the Twelve, and by many others. Then finally he appeared to me.

Now if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Jesus was not raised from the dead, and our faith is senseless. We may as well just live for today – eat, drink, and have a good time, because tomorrow we die.

But Christ HAS been raised, the first in a great harvest of those who have died. When a seed is planted, it must die before it can grow. And when it grows, it has an entirely different kind of body. The same is true for us. When we die, our bodies will be "planted" perishable, raised imperishable; "planted" in disgrace, raised in glory; "planted" in weakness, raised in power; "planted" a physical body, raised a spiritual body.

At the last trumpet, when Christ comes, those who belong to him and have died will be raised to immortality. Then those who have not died will be changed, in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye. They too will become immortal. And death will be defeated.

Paul finished off his letter to the Corinthians by encouraging them to give generously for the relief of famine victims in Jerusalem. He promised to visit them soon and said, "Immerse yourselves in the Lord's work. I send my love to all of you in Christ Jesus."